

USATF Annual Meeting Update

After attending different session here at the USATF Annual meeting here in Houston Texas I have

AAC Meeting:

The AAC have worked out a revenue distribution model for the elite athletes in addition to the current tier system. They are looking at putting 9 million over the next 5 years above and beyond what is already being spent on elite athletes. In 2016 1.8 million will be spent on the programs. 75% of this funding will be distributed to athletes that make the team and compete at the Olympic Games or World Championships.

Example-

Tier 1 National Champion base pay would be around \$45,000
Gold medal at the Olympic Games would be worth about \$95,000

They are still drafting a template to define set criteria of what it means to be a professional athlete and what obligations should be put in place to represent team USA.

Medal bonus for World Championships or Olympic Games:

\$25,000- Gold
\$15,000- Silver
\$10,000- Bronze

Questions and concerns in the room surrounded what more would be asked of the athletes above and beyond what is already being required to get the money. Also what mechanisms would be put in place to anticipate any athlete found in violation of a doping offense? The example given was requiring them to return awarded bonuses from this new model.

Stephanie Hightower talked about her new position on the IAAF and being nominated as the NACAC Vice President. One of her goal is to bring more professional competition to the NACAC region so the elite athletes can spend less time having to do most of their competitions in Europe and Asia.

There is a mentor program that has been put in place for athletes that want help with transitioning their lives off the track. Some of the services to be offered are help building a resumes, help with job opportunities, and helping them finish up their college degree.

USATF Sports Medicine Resources for tier athletes are as follows:

USATF Excess Accident Medical Coverage, USOC Elite Athlete Health Insurance, St. Vincent Sports Performance Center Partnership, USOC National Medical Network, US Olympic Training Center Short Term Medical Program, Nutrition and Sports Psychology.

USATF High Performance Plan Resources

Diamond League Medical Support, USOC Elite Athlete Health Profile, Distance and Altitude Initiative, 400m and 400m Hurdle Initiative, Throws Initiative, Pre-Rookie Camp

Law and Legislature Committee

Item 12 on the agenda was to make Cross Country (CC) its own sport committee. The rationale for this was CC is one of the largest High Schools and College sports participated in the country. It has its own committee at the IAAF and road racing level. The result was that this would be tabled until they could come up with a better recommendation and a way to move forward. The next item had to do with the elected President serving as board chair. The President can step down if they believe it to be a conflict of interest.

USATF Athlete Alumni Association

The association is planning to have a few events at the Olympic Trials. The events are as follow an alumni basketball game, alumni bowling event, alumni hospitality, and alumni autograph signing at the trials.